

ELBERT HUBBARD--Elks Theatre, TONIGHT

HAS HARD TIME TO SECURE DIPLOMATS

Americans Turn Down Good Positions Abroad Because Expenses Are Too Heavy.

Washington, D. C., April 19.—One of the early and puzzling problems with which the president has been confronted is the complex one of finding suitable men willing to enter on the high foreign service of the government. It is known Dr. Eliot's declination of the post at the court of St. James was a deep disappointment to Taft. The reasons that led to the Harvard educator's negative decision are reasons that naturally will have weight with other men whom the president may have in mind for the place. Dr. Eliot's income is not large enough to admit of his taking a position which would cost a huge sum to maintain as it has been maintained by former Ambassadors to Great Britain.

Already the great London newspapers are giving heed to the peculiar position in which the president finds himself placed in the matter of this country's chief representative office in the island. London correspondents in Washington are telling their newspapers bluntly that under present conditions no man can be made an ambassador to Great Britain unless he has a great private fortune, and the correspondents also are saying that in America great fortunes and diplomatic ability are not always found together.

England would have welcomed Dr. Eliot, and the expressions of disappointment over his declination are many and apparently sincere. The question of who is to succeed Whitehead is one of present and of absorbing interest to the Englishman of all parties.

Not often has a president of the United States with gifts in his hand found within six weeks so many persons reluctant to accept his largess. Dr. Eliot declined to go to England, Judge Meyer Smithberger of the Court of Common Pleas at Philadelphia has said he cannot go to Turkey; former Senator Hemenway of Indiana found no attraction in the offer of the mission to Pekin; former Representative Morrell of Pennsylvania has decided he cannot go to St. Petersburg, and former Representative Watson of Indiana twice has turned away from the offer of the mission to Cuba. If any other Americans have rejected the offers of foreign posts their names have not been disclosed.

It costs more money to keep up "precedent appearance" in London than it does at any of the other capitals, but no man without money of his own can take any one of the great foreign posts and do justice to it, as the foreigners look at justice, without the aid of a heavy purse. This matter has been threshed out time and again. Congress knows all about it, but has declined to pay any attention to executive recommendations that the salaries of our ministers and ambassadors be increased. It has refused also to appropriate money to build homes for our rep-

OH, WELL., GIVE US INDIGESTION, THEN.



A CHICAGO PROFESSOR CLAIMS THAT LOVE AND INDIGESTION ARE ALIKE.

representatives abroad, so they may be relieved of the necessity of paying out all of their salaries in rent. The foreign landlord takes it for granted that any man who writes ambassador after his name is a man of millions.

Former Senator Charles W. Fulton of Oregon, now has the offer of the Chinese post under advisement. He may take it. The offer to Fulton, it is generally recognized, was made because of political considerations. It has caused an abounding surprise in Washington, so frankly it must be said that the opinion is that Taft in this instance, has shown a disposition to give first consideration to party service rendered rather than to marked fitness for the office.

It may be Fulton will make an admirable ambassador. It is entirely possible, however, that some of the adverse comment on Taft's selection of the Oregon man is due to the fact that our present minister to China is qualified beyond most men for the post which he holds. The thought was that, under the spirit which recently has controlled in foreign appointments, Minister Rockhill would be kept in Pekin.

The case of the minister to China has been quoted time and again as an example of the reward that can come to a man after years of studious attention to the duties of office. It is a case of the civil service as applied to high positions.

William W. Rockhill has been for many years in the diplomatic service. He is a specialist in Chinese affairs. He was made second secretary of the Pekin legation in 1884, and one year later was promoted to the office of

secretary. In 1886 and 1887 he was made charge d'affaires at Seoul and from there went back to the Chinese capital. He resigned in 1888, and later led two scientific expeditions into China and Tibet for the Smithsonian institution; afterward he became chief clerk of the state department, to be promoted quickly to the position of assistant secretary of state.

Since his service in the state department in Washington, Rockhill has been minister to Greece, Roumania and Serbia, and in 1906 was appointed a special commissioner of the United States to settle the Boxer troubles. He knows Chinese affairs as few men know them, and he is personally grateful to the officials and the people of the Flowery Kingdom. Fulton, if he takes Rockhill's place, will have to work hard to fill it as it has been filled.

Within a few days Secretary of State Knox has given unmistakable evidence that he intends to carry out in spirit and in letter the rule which his predecessor, Root, laid down to govern appointments in the consular service. In most instances merit has ruled in consular promotions for two years. There are capable men in subordinate positions in the foreign service who are looking to high office in the future as a reward for work well done.

There is a feeling that Congress before long will rouse itself to the absolute necessity of making appropriations to build homes for our ambassadors and ministers. If this is done the consular generals and consuls now working efficiently for comparatively small pay can have hope that one day if the civil service rule is to apply to higher places they may be able to take these higher places and perform their duty without falling under the censures of the people of the foreign capitals for not keeping up "social appearances."

There was much pressure brought to bear upon Taft to induce him to make offers of positions to several of the former officeholders whom the people had declined to re-appoint in their services. These men did hard work for the Republican ticket at the last election, and some of them did loyal work on behalf of Taft prior to the Republican convention. Gratitude, of course, has entered into the matter.

Now that some of these gentlemen have declined diplomatic preferment it is possible, very likely probable, Taft is glad of it and that he can see his way clear to give the foreign posts of honor to men whom he believes to be fitted to fill them.

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AMERICA'S CORN KING WILL TEACH MOUJIKS TO GROW CORN



J. B. CLORE AND HIS PRIZE CORN OF 1908.

Franklin, Ind., April 19.—J. B. Clore, Indiana's "corn king," is to tell the secrets of his trade to the czar of Russia. He's to get \$4,000 a year and all expenses for three years for doing it.

Clore isn't one of the stock exchange "corn kings." No. He actually raises it. Plants the seed corn, plows and harrows and husks 'em and all that sort of thing. If the czar had wanted one of the other kind of kings he wouldn't have sent down into the country to get one.

They call Clore the corn king because he seems to have a trick of growing on the Russian steppes. When he looked around for someone to put his subjects on to the fine points, Clore of Indiana, loomed up like a light house in a fog. So he got the job.

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TRADE REVIVAL IS PLAINLY EVIDENT

Building Trade Leads All But Business Generally Rapidly Improves.

New York, April 19.—The improvement in general business is undoubtedly going on in a satisfactory manner. The big men of the country, the bankers and merchants recognize this. The improvement is more substantial than at any time since the panic of 1907. Bank clearings show this to be true conclusively. There is a moderately confident tone pervading business affairs generally, partly based upon a spring demand for goods.

The building trade stands out as the most active line of business so far this year. The explanation for this exceptional condition will be found in the low cost of materials, brought about through the cuts in iron and steel prices and in an increased efficiency of labor. It is estimated by Bradstreet that these two factors in the building trade are responsible for a saving of from 20 per cent to 35 per cent in the cost of building operations this year as compared with years of general prosperity.

In addition to the demand for structural steel which these building operations bring into the market, the railroads have been placing orders much more freely, particularly for bridge work and a number of orders for rails have been placed. The production of pig iron for a long time has been excessive in view of the consumptive demand, but the figures of March production indicate that the daily average tends to decline. Consequently, consumption may soon catch up with production. Meantime, of course, the price of pig iron is very weak.

The stock market was overshadowed during the week by the wheat and cotton markets. The wheat corner started talk of government action to prevent speculation in futures. Such action would be the worst possible. It would restrict business and would result here as it did in Germany, where the anti-speculation laws and anti-futures laws hurt the farmer so that new efforts are being made to repeal the laws. This has happened in the cotton states of this country, eight of which have anti-option laws. These laws according to one of the men who worked hardest to have them passed has cost the cotton planter \$200,000,000 and this man is now trying to have the laws repealed.

A wheat corner is a bad thing and works temporary harm. If it is a mere gamble, a speculative manipulation of prices, it is of only slight importance. It cannot be permanent, and will pass away leaving no trace. But if it is based upon knowledge and foresight it will convert the deficiency of today into the abundance of the harvest time. Farmers and dealers in both hemispheres are taking note and guiding themselves accordingly. Millions of acres will raise wheat which otherwise might have raised unwanted oats or rye. The dearth of today is the assurance of abundance hereafter. Whoever would "peg" prices by law would make as great a mistake as has been proved by Germany, the southern cotton states and in innumerable other instances familiar to the student of wealth.

Wheat in April advanced from \$1.19 a bushel on the first to \$1.29 on the 15th. The highest price for many years was reached during the week on No. 2 contract wheat for export. This class closed on Thursday at \$1.40 a bushel free on board at New York.

Cotton had a sensational rise and sold up \$1.50 a bale on Thursday. The trading was heavy. The cause of the rise was the drought in the cotton belt and the fear of a short crop. The result of the high prices for both cotton and corn will be increased acreage and a larger crop than expected even if conditions are bad later on.

In the stock market prices advanced but slightly on an average, although some individual issues made gains. On Monday the average price was 122.96 and on Thursday 122.46. Reading was strong on the story that plans have been worked out for the separation of the coal properties irrespective of the decision of the supreme court in the matter of the constitutionality of the commodity clause of the Hepburn bill. Denver & Rio Grande advanced as the result of competitive buying, which is said to be for control.

The prices of stocks are high but it looks now as if they would go higher, but for the margin speculator the market should be entered with caution.

I'd Rather Die, Doctor.
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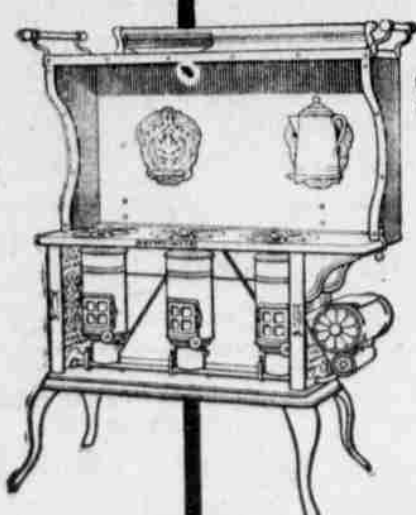
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